(b) whether Government have received any demand from the oil crushing units, for the import of oilseeds from foreign country in view of its low production in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, import of oilseeds is proposed to be allowed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The oil crushing units particularly Solvent Extracters Association and Soybean Oil Processors Association have been writing to the Government about the under utilisation of the installed processing capacity of their units by 35-40%. The installed processing capacity was created by the units at their own much inexcess of the availability of raw material in the country without taking into consideration the production aspect of oilseeds used in solvent extraction i.e. soybean, sunflower and meals of other oilseeds. The major oilseeds like groundnut, rapeseed-mustard and seasmum are reserved for processing in the small scale sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Although the oilseeds production in the country has been of the order of 24.96 million tonnes during 1996-97 which is all time high record production achieved so far and 23.70 million tonnes in 1997-98, even then the proposal has been received by the Government for import of oilseeds, particularly soybean but it has been found that import of soybean could be allowed only in split form due to the danger of import of dangerous pathogens alongwith the seed. It was, therefore, decided that the association of industry would create splitting facilities at the port of entry i.e. at Kandla Port, before the import of soybean takes place. The Association has been conveyed the decision, who has yet to take necessary action to create the splitting facility at the port of entry.

Nuclear Waste From Water Reactors

3263. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of annual nuclear waste from the nuclear reactors in the country;

(b) what is existing arrangement to handle the nuclear waste to check atmospheric pollution;

(c) whether any recent review of the existing system has been made to judge its adequacy or otherwise in checking the radiation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what measures are contemplated by Government to store the nuclear waste more effectively to avoid its dangerous fall out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The extent of annual nuclear waste from the nuclear reactors in the country varies depending upon the total operating period of all the plants in a particular year.

(b) The existing arrangement to handle the nuclear waste includes several

Production of Quality Seeds by BARC

3264. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed expertise in producing quality seeds to boost agriculture especially in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details of the type of seeds developed and the parts of the country where these can be used for boosting agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has produced a number of